



catalinbread
MECHANISMS OF MUSIC

Hello and welcome to your new Talisman!

The Catalinbread Talisman was designed to emulate the legendary (and gigantic!) EMT 140 plate reverb unit introduced in the late 1950's. In use for decades now in studios around the world, it has become an industry standard and has been used on some of the most iconic recordings ever made.

For those not familiar, a plate reverb is essentially a very large sheet metal panel (roughly 7' x 5') suspended within a metal frame by heavy duty springs and encased within a large wooden box. The incoming signal hits the metal plate via a driver amplifier and transducer causing it to vibrate much like the cone of a speaker does. Pickups placed around the plate sense the vibration and the signal is then sent to an output amplifier to boost the signal. Sliding damper pads inside the box are adjusted to determine the length of decay. It's a brilliantly simple design. The result is an incredibly lush and natural sounding reverb that never seems to get in the way of the source signal - it just embellishes it and creates the illusion of space.

The Talisman provides the same lush dimension to your sound - subtly creating space around your playing at minimum settings to seemingly endless waves of ambient shimmering reflections at the extremes. Drawing sonic inspiration from classic albums of the 70's such as Pink Floyd's Dark Side Of The Moon to those incendiary first Van Halen records and literally thousands of others, the Talisman excels at replicating those quintessential plate reverb sounds. Featuring controls used in the studio models like high pass filtering and pre-delay, we've made it easy for guitarists to dial in that same compelling sound when using it with an amplifier.



QUICK START

Let's begin by plugging the Talisman into your amp's input without any other pedals in the chain. We will address integrating it into your effects chain later on. Set your amp to a clean setting, this way you can hear the most accurate representation of how the reverb sounds and responds to your playing.

A quick word about effects loops – many players prefer to use reverb effects in the effects loops of their amplifiers. The Talisman can be used in the effects loops of many amps provided they are instrument level or adjustable line level loops. Loops that are non-adjustable line level with a hot output may cause the Talisman's preamp to clip. If that is the case, simply run the Talisman as the last pedal in your chain of effects prior to the amp's input.

Let's start with a medium decay, full-bodied EQ sound. Set the controls thusly:

HIGH PASS - 7:00
TIME - 11:00
PRE DELAY - 7:00
MIX - 12:00
VOL - to your desired output level

Notice the clear reflected sound – very natural and room-like. Big sounding, but unobtrusive.

Now let's explore the effect of the **PRE DELAY** and **HIGH PASS** controls on this setting. These controls allow you to fine tune the attack characteristic and EQ of the reverb in relation to the dry signal.



The **PRE DELAY** adjusts the time lag between your initial dry signal attack and the onset of the reverbed signal. For lush, ethereal sounds you'll want to set this fairly low so that the reverb immediately envelops the signal. Turning it up allows room for fast picked or staccato notes to remain clear and articulate before the reverb fills in with an unobtrusive underlying pad. At maximum settings, the onset is delayed so much that you can dial in an almost 'slapback' echo type effect if you wish.

The **HIGH PASS** is a filter control that gradually removes lower frequencies from the reverbed signal to keep things from getting muddy within the context of a mix or when hit with a signal with a wide EQ spread. This can be especially useful when playing chords or when using a lot of distortion. Pay attention to its relationship to the **TIME**, control - you may find even when playing clean that at longer delay times that removing some low end via this knob helps to keep things light and airy. The remaining controls are fairly self-explanatory and are detailed below.

CONTROLS IN DETAIL

The **MIX** control allows you to dial in the amount of effected signal from completely dry to 100% wet.

The **HIGH PASS** control gradually filters out lower frequencies as it is increased. If you find the signal to be muddy, you can turn up the **HIGH PASS** control for increased clarity and a more detailed reverb sound.

The **TIME** control adjusts the length of the reverb tail from a short 'small room' type decay to an almost infinite pad of soupy fog. It's possible when the pedal's internal slider switch is set to **BUFF** to then bypass the pedal and play over that 'infinite pad' with an unaffected signal.

The **PRE DELAY** control adjusts the time between your dry signal and the onset of reverb reflection. AS you turn the **PRE DELAY** knob up, you can hear the reverb detach from the dry guitar signal up to about 100mS. If you want your guitar signal to cut through the mix more and be less obscured by the reverb tail, this is where the **PRE DELAY** control comes into play.

The **VOL** knob controls the overall output volume. When the pedal's internal slider switch is set to **BUFF** mode (the Talisman ships from us in this mode - see the **INTERNAL CONTROLS** section below for more info), the **VOL** control is still active in bypass. This allows you the ability to use the Talisman as a global master volume for your entire pedalboard if you wish. The discrete preamp is also capable of a healthy amount of boost! Unity volume versus your bypassed signal (when the internal slider is set to **TB** mode) will occur at different settings based on whether you are powering it at 9V or 18V.

INTERNAL CONTROLS

BUFF/TB SWITCH. Located in the lower left corner of the circuit board is the slider switch that allows you to run the pedal in two different states of bypass. In **BUFF** mode, the reverb reflections will trail off naturally when bypassing the pedal. In this mode, the **VOL** and **MIX** controls remain active in bypass allowing you to use it as a 'master volume' for your entire pedalboard. In **TB** mode, the pedal is completely bypassed including the **VOL** and **MIX** controls.

WHERE TO PLACE YOUR TALISMAN IN YOUR EFFECT CHAIN

Time based effects typically live at the end of effect chains. Running dirt pedals and delays for example into the Talisman will allow them to remain clear and detailed. If you run reverb before dirt pedals, the result can be a bit more compressed and less detailed than if you had set it up the other way around and obviously distorted as well. This can be a very cool thing! It's fun to experiment with effects positioning and discover the relationships between them to tailor the sounds that you are searching for!

POWER SUPPLY

The Talisman can be powered by any center-negative 9-18V DC power supply that is designed for use with effect pedals and can provide at least 100mA of current. When powering multiple pedals with one supply, make sure that the current rating of the power supply is greater than the sum of all of the individual pedal's current draws.

SPECIFICATIONS

Buffered or True Bypass switching (slider switch located inside)

4.375" (11.11 cm) x 2.375" (6 cm) x 1.875" (4.76 cm)

62mA current draw at 9V DC

66mA current draw at 18V DC

9-18V DC center-negative power supply required

